

Remarks

The Examiner has objected to the drawings as not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims, referring to claim 26. In response thereto, claim 26 has been cancelled.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 USC 112 second paragraph as being indefinite for lacking adequate antecedent basis as for recitation of "said shaft closing piece". In response thereto, claim 4 has been amended to be dependent upon claim 3 therefore providing antecedent basis for the recitation. Review and acceptance is requested.

Claims 13 and 23 stand objected to due to formalities which have been corrected in the instant amendment.


The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 5, 6, 8 and 13 through 21 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Monicke. Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Monicke. Claims 9, 10, 12, 22, 23, 25 and 26 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Monicke in view of Toschi. The Examiner has, however, indicated that claim 4 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112 second paragraph and that claims 2, 3, 11 and 24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the based claim and any intervening claims.

In response thereto, the Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of former claim 2 which has accordingly been cancelled. Claim

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1 is therefore allowable. The remaining claims of record have been amended accordingly to be dependent upon allowable claim 1. In particular, claim 13 is now cast as a dependent claim including the limitations of claim 1. Therefore, all claims of record are dependent upon an allowable base claim and are therefore similarly allowable. Review, acceptance, and passage to issuance is therefore requested.

No new matter has been added in this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,


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